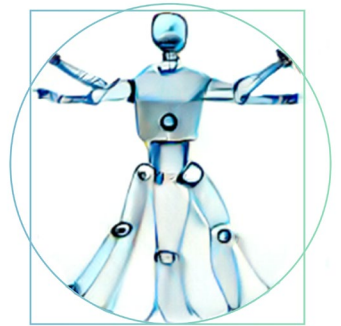




Digital Media, Society, and Culture

The World Brain

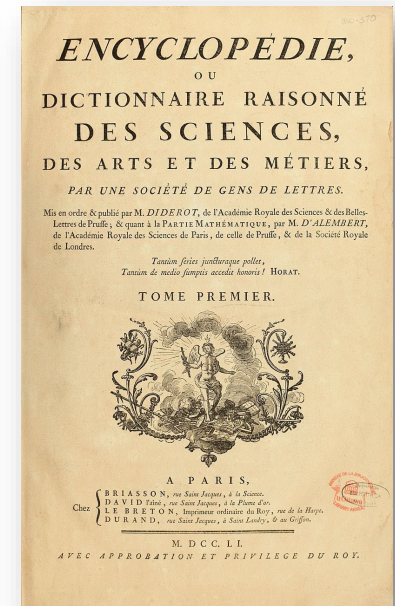
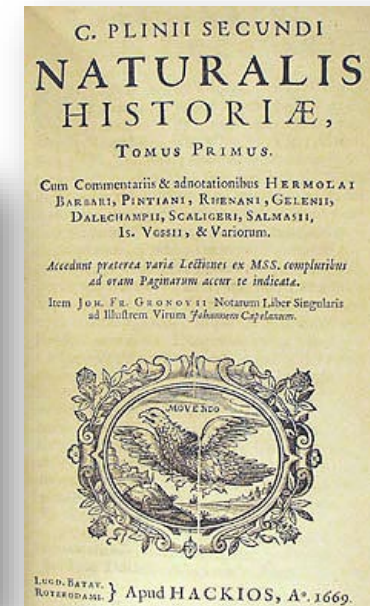
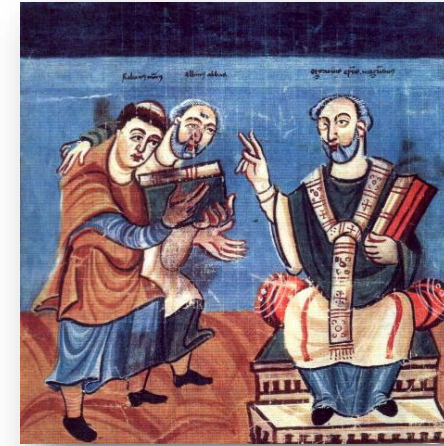
Angus A.A. Mol
Walter Crist



L U C D H

Encyclopedias

- “General education” (ἐγκύκλιος παιδεία)
- Natural histories
- Roots in deontology (storytelling as sensemaking)
- Education, science, ideology, administration, politics
 - Renaissance
 - Enlightenment
 - Nation Building



H.G. Wells' *The World Brain*

- Series of lectures by the “Father of SF”, futurist, social activist
- [World Brain](#): more than an encyclopedia
 - “The **encyclopaedias of the past** have sufficed for the needs of a cultivated minority.”
 - “Pull the mind of the world together”
 - “A world **synthesis** of bibliography and documentation with the **indexed** archives of the world.”
- “It can be **reproduced** exactly and fully, in Peru, China, Iceland, Central Africa, or wherever else.”
- “Its creation is a way to **world peace** that can be followed without any very grave risk of collision with the warring political forces and the vested institutional interests of today”
- “The **whole human memory** can be, and probably in a short time will be, made accessible to every individual”
- “This is **no remote dream**, no fantasy. It is a plain statement of a contemporary state of affairs. It is on the level of practicable fact.”



The 'Spoils of War': An Issue of Information Indexing

“There is a **growing mountain of research**. But there is increased evidence that we are **being bogged down** today as specialization extends. The investigator is staggered by the findings and conclusions of thousands of other workers—conclusions which he cannot find time to grasp, much less to remember, as they appear.”

“Consider a future device for individual use, which is a sort of mechanized private file and library. It needs a name, and, to coin one at random, "memex" will do. A memex is a device in which an individual stores all his books, records, and communications, and which is mechanized so that it may be consulted with exceeding speed and flexibility. It is **an enlarged intimate supplement to his memory.**”

1945, As We May Think, V. Bush [in the Atlantic](#)



The Invention of the World Wide Web

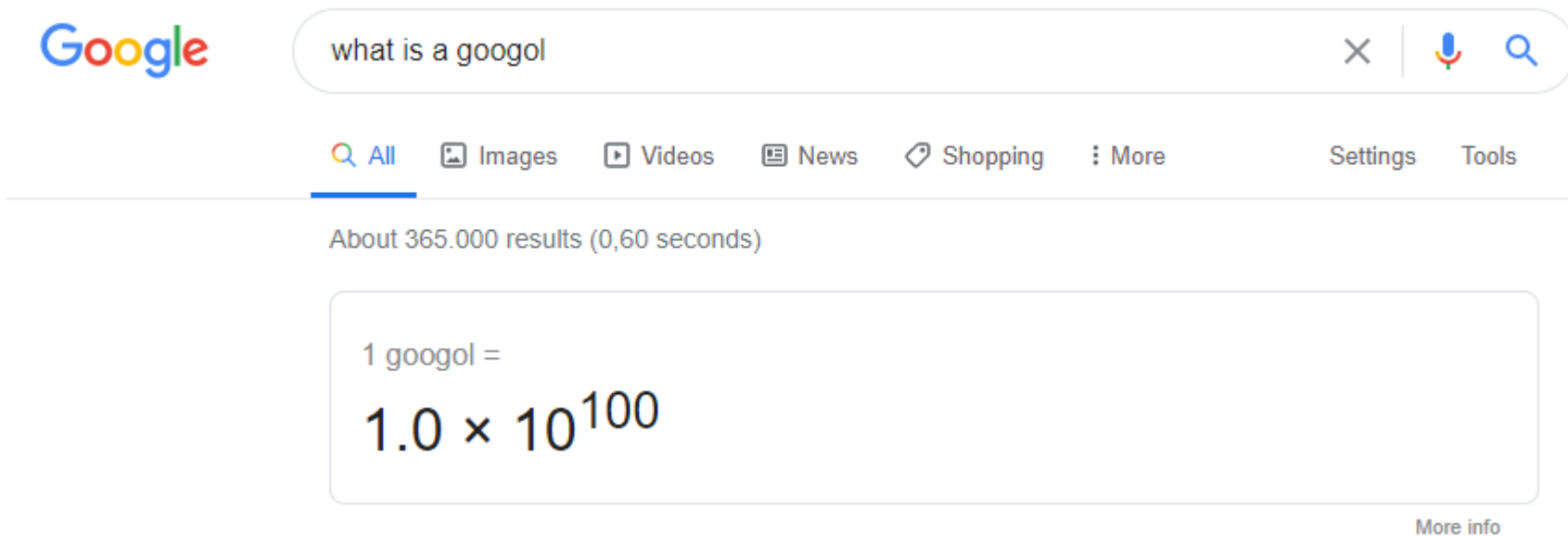
- Sir Tim Berners-Lee at CERN (1989)
- Colloquially and wrongly referred to as the 'Internet'
- Standards
 - HTML (Hyper Text Markup Language)
 - URL (Uniform Resource Locator): the link
 - World Wide Web hostname
 - HTTP (Hypertext Transfer Protocol)

More info at [CERN](https://www.cern.ch)



Google

A Google Quiz: Name?



The image shows a Google search interface. The search bar contains the text "what is a googol". Below the search bar, the "All" tab is selected. The search results show "About 365.000 results (0,60 seconds)". A large box displays the definition: "1 googol =" followed by the mathematical expression 1.0×10^{100} . A "More info" link is visible at the bottom right of the result box.

Google

what is a googol

[All](#) [Images](#) [Videos](#) [News](#) [Shopping](#) [More](#) [Settings](#) [Tools](#)

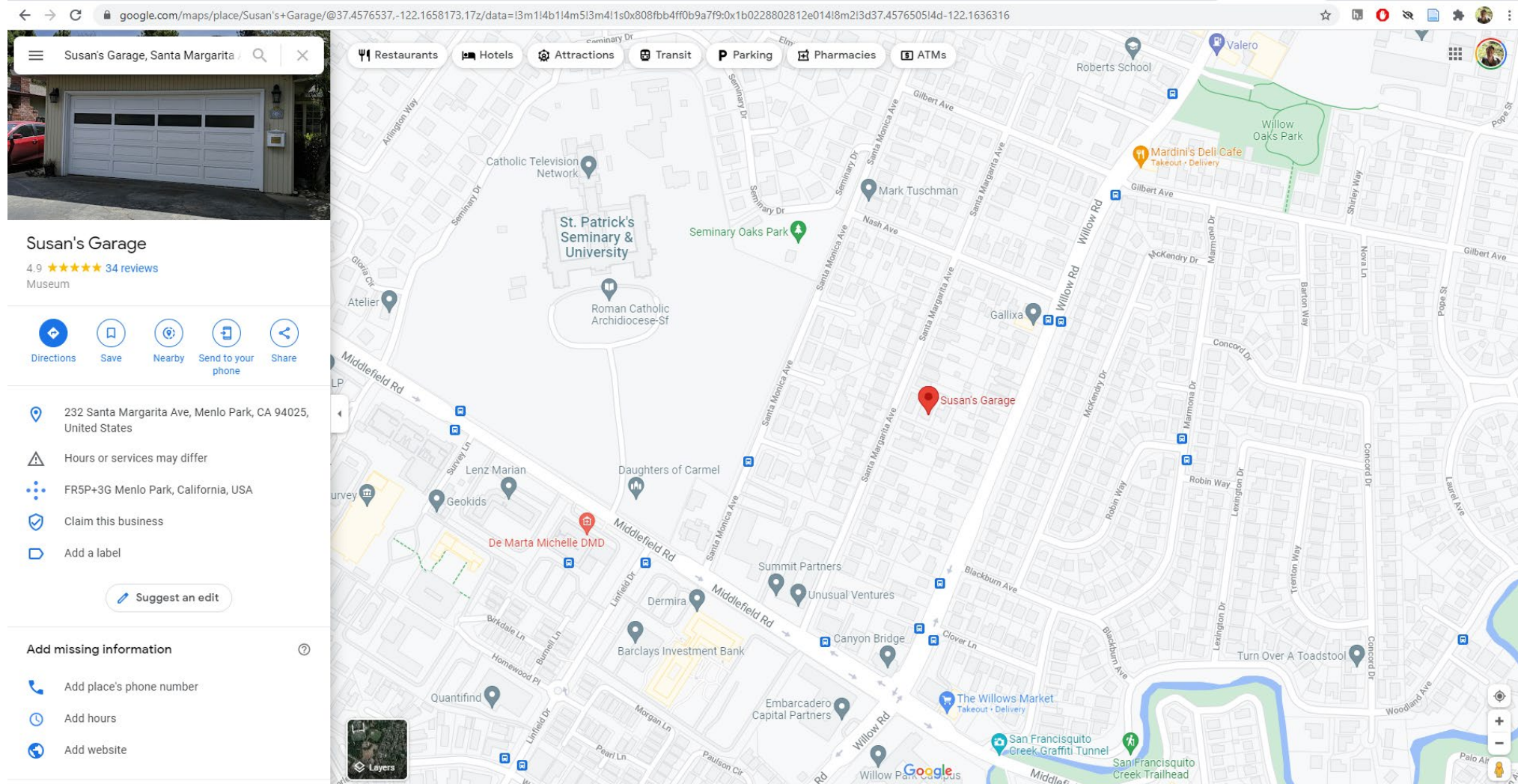
About 365.000 results (0,60 seconds)

1 googol =

$$1.0 \times 10^{100}$$

[More info](#)

A Google Quiz: Where?



A Google Quiz: Owner?

Market Summary > Alphabet Inc Class A

97,50 USD

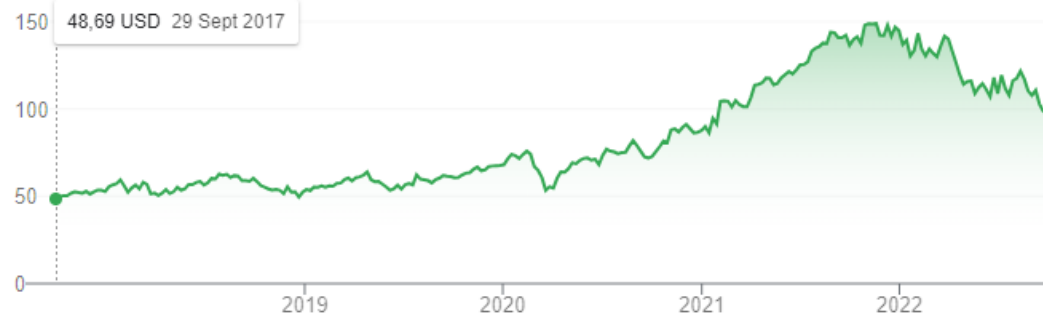
+48.81 (100.25%) ↑ past 5 years

Closed: 28 Sept, 05:15 GMT-4 • Disclaimer

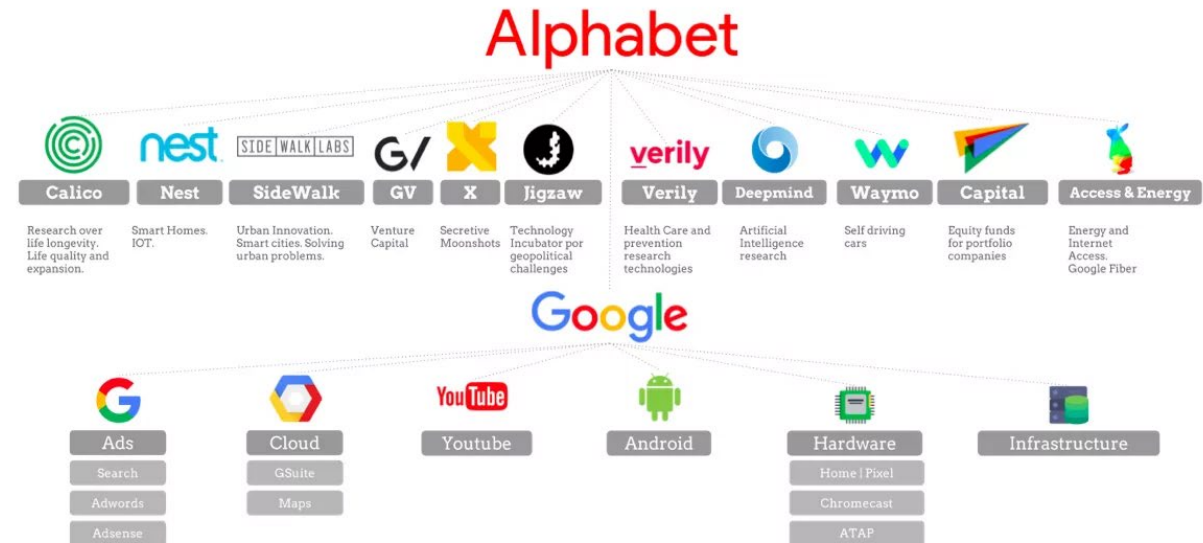
Pre-market 96,00 -1,50 (1,54%)

+ Follow

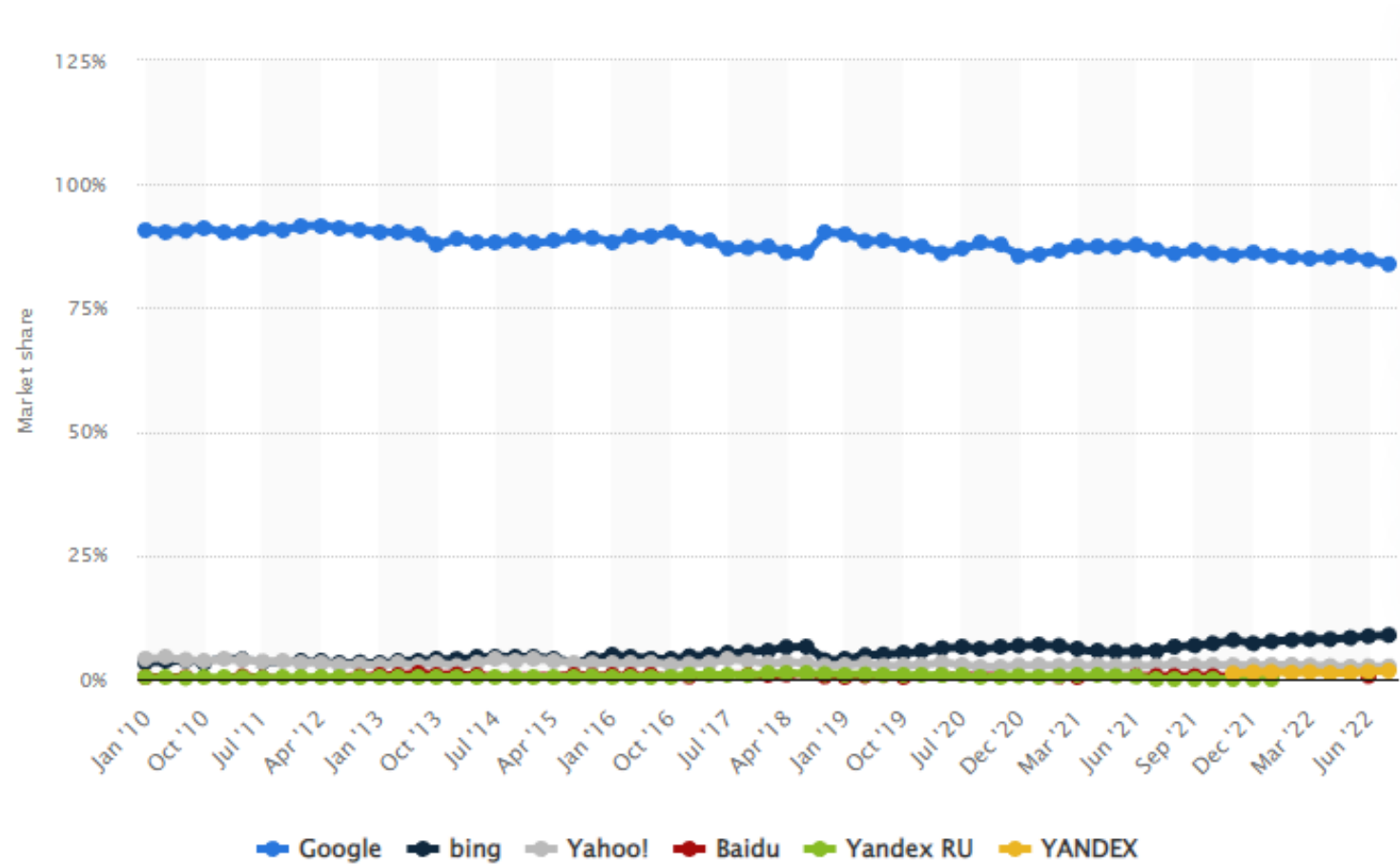
1D | 5D | 1M | 6M | YTD | 1Y | 5Y | Max



Open	99,43	Mkt cap	1,27T	CDP score	A-
High	100,00	P/E ratio	18,47	52-wk high	151,55
Low	96,87	Div yield	-	52-wk low	96,87



A Google Quiz: Market share?

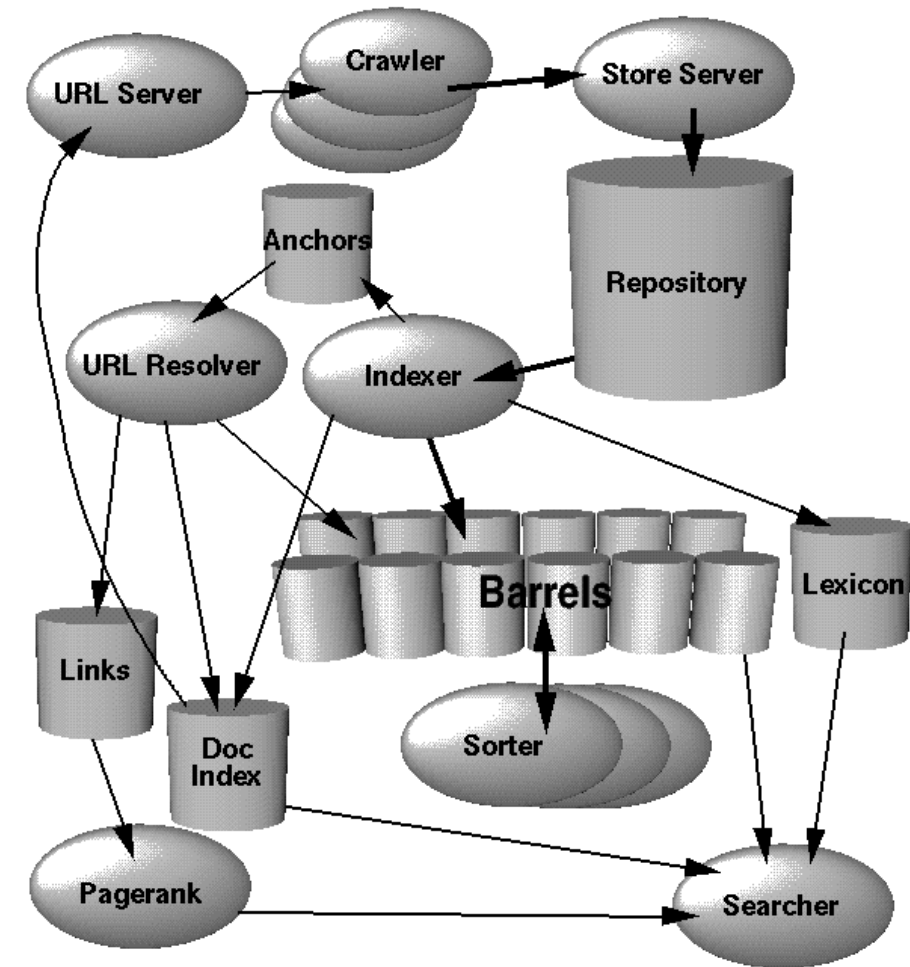


(source: [Statista](#))

A Google Quiz (answer in 1999!):



Links are used to map sites ([link](#))



[Brin and Page Original "Backrub" Schema](#)

Old Search Engines: Archie and WebCrawler

Welcome to archie.icm.edu.pl

Archie Query Form 

Search for:

Database: ☒ Worldwide Anonymous FTP ☐ Polish Web Index
Search Type: ☒ Sub String ☐ Exact ☐ Regular Expression
Case: ☒ Insensitive ☐ Sensitive

Do you want to look up strings only (no sites returned):
☒ NO ☐ YES

Output Format For Web Index Search: ☐ Keywords Only
☒ Excerpts Only
☐ Links Only

Optional Search Parameters

You can use as many terms as you like in your query, as long as you separate them by spaces. By default, **Archie** inserts "OR" operators between all of the terms of your query. If you prefer, you can change the operator to "AND" by choosing these radio buttons:

☐ OR ☐ AND

You can also limit the search results to match a directory path (this is optional):

Or to exclude search results that match a directory path you don't want (this is also optional):

If you want to limit the search so that it only looks in certain domains (such as ca, edu or com), enter one or more in the following boxes:

Maximum Hits:

Maximum hits per string matched (valid for non-exact searches):

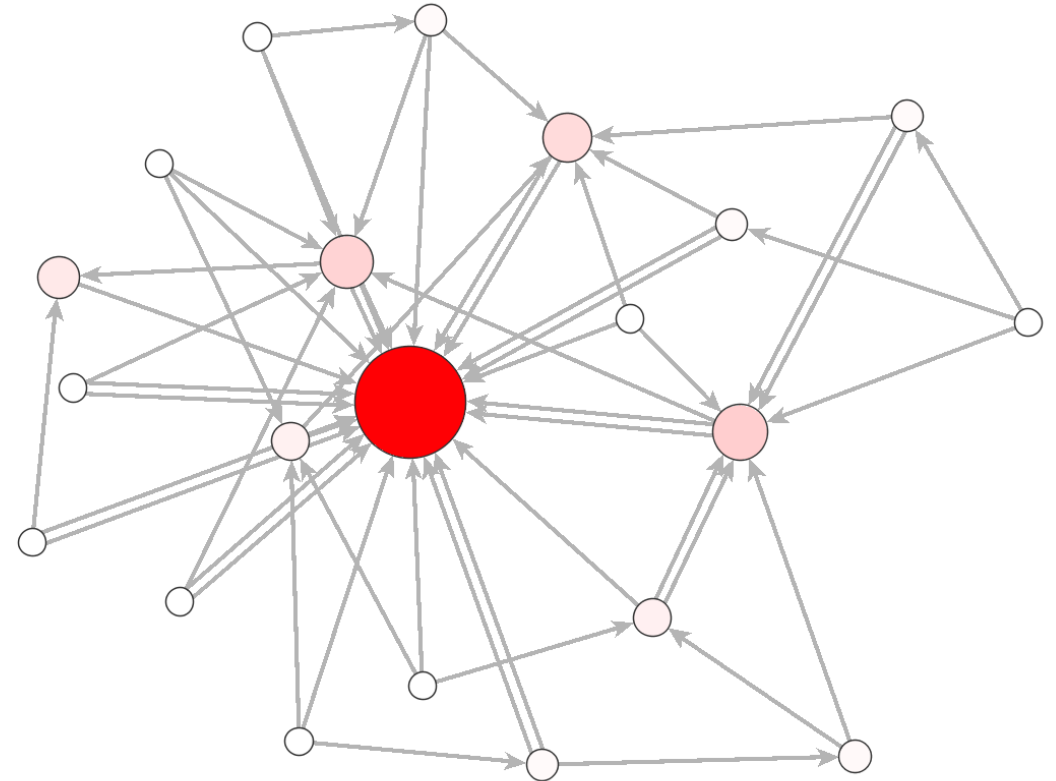
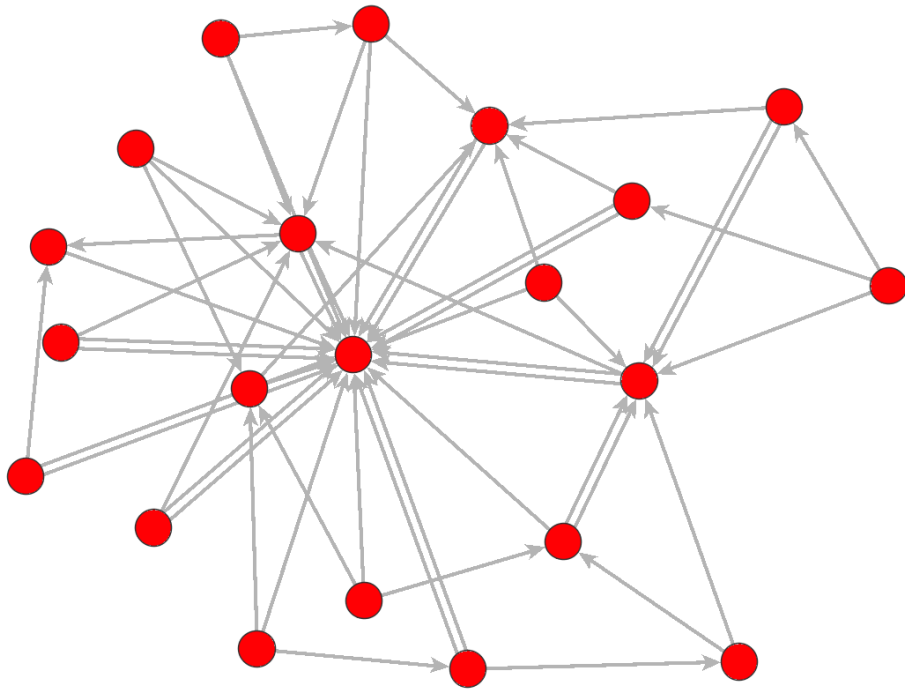
Maximum string matched (valid for non-exact searches):

[Wersja polska](#) | [Help](#) | [Simple Search](#)



[Web](#) [Images](#) [Videos](#) [News](#)

Backlinks and the PageRank Algorithm



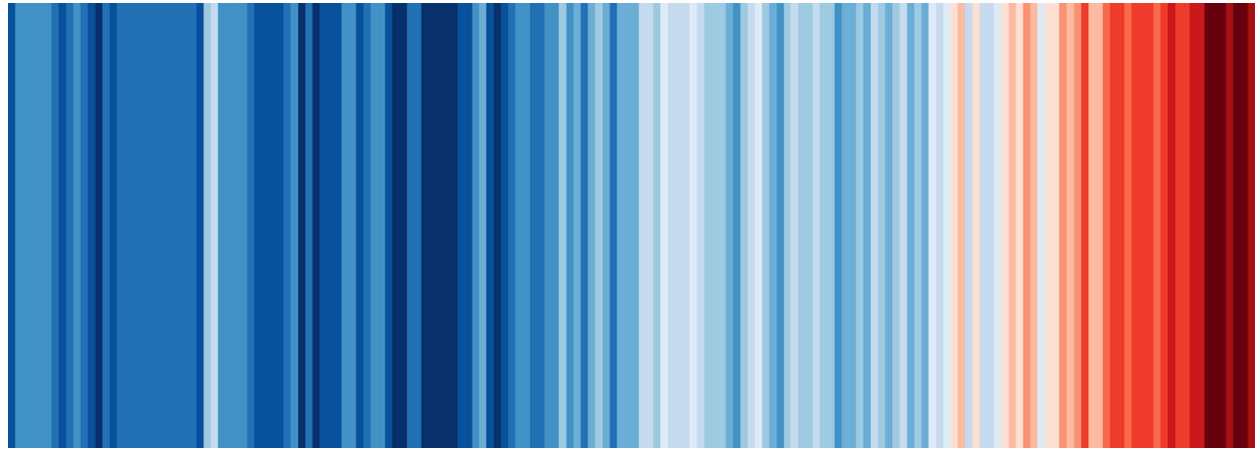
What else does Google look for?

- Robot.txt file
- Website security
- Keywords, tags, headers, content relations, existence of a site map
- Parsing of content:
 - Text
 - Images
 - Videos
 - HTML, CSS, JavaScript and other code
- The 'Dark' Arts of **SEO**: Search Engine Optimization

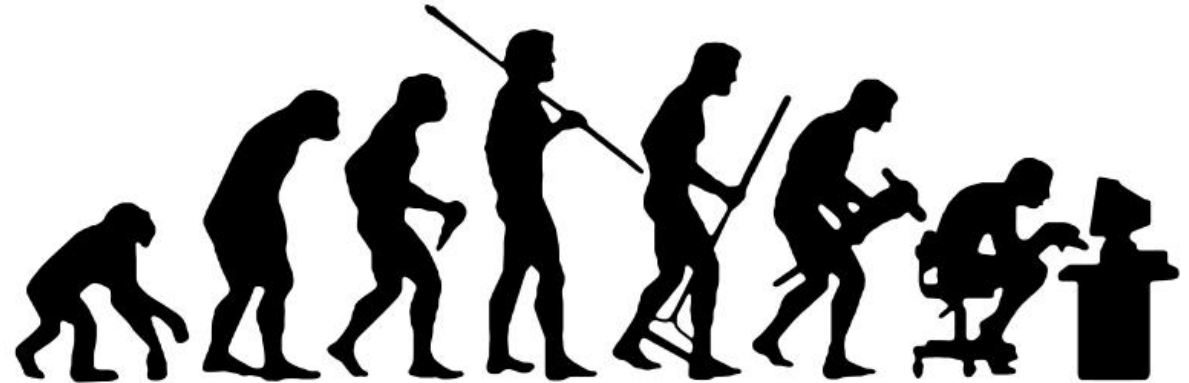


Humanity faces multiple *crises*

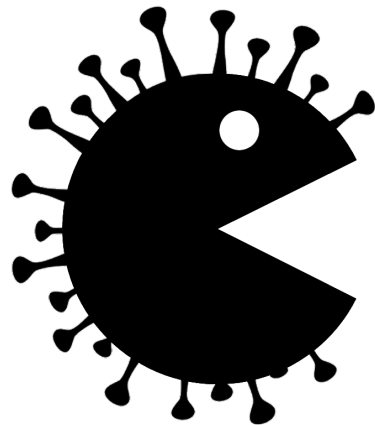
Human-made: Humanities' solutions?



Warming stripes (Ed Hawkins)
Annual global temperatures, 1850-2021
Blue = cooler than normal
Red = warmer than normal



*Digital
(R)evolution*



Not *why*, but **how**?

Google

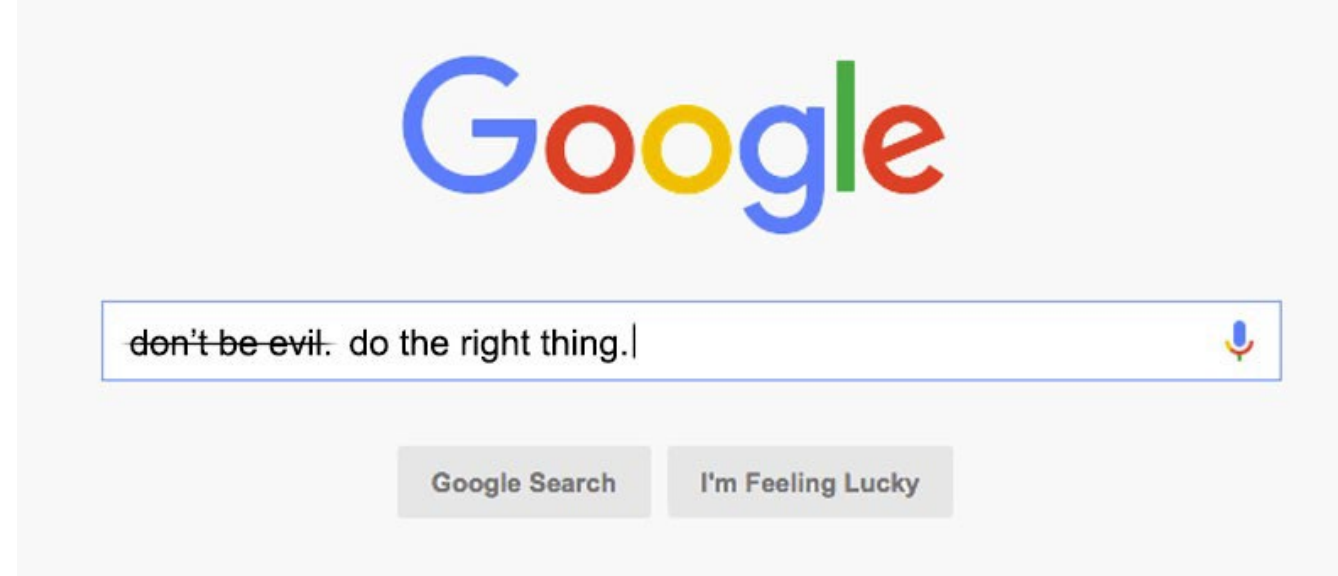
The image shows the word "Google" in a stylized, distressed font. The letters are primarily dark blue with a grainy, textured appearance. The first 'o' and the final 'e' are red. The second 'o' has a brown, rusted texture. A thick green vertical bar replaces the letter 'l'. Above the first 'o' and the final 'e', there are flames in shades of orange and yellow. A thick plume of black smoke rises from the top of the green bar. The entire logo is set against a plain white background.



Visualization showing the number of trees needed to absorb the amount of CO2 generated by the global visits to google.com every second in 2016!

Joanna Moll, 2016, janavirgin.com
DEF000000000000000000000000REST

Geevil?



- Google and Copyright
 - Books: [Google and the World Brain](#)
- Google and Privacy:
 - Try [Google Take-out](#) (thanks GDPR!)
- Google and the [Military](#)
- Google and [Censorship](#)
- Google is an ultra-pervasive, profit-driven, secretive company

Stay Critical!

“We're not a truth engine. ... We can give you information, but we can't tell you the truth of a thing.”

-Danny Sullivan, Google search liaison in [CNBC interview](#)

Content Cue: How do you find information and knowledge on digital technologies and media?

How can you/we stay critical of digital technology and media in this way?